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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Food and Agriculture Organization:...Information from the economists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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On the 16th of October, at the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City, Canada, a step will be taken to do something about a fact that heretofore has been accepted as natural. I'm talking about the fact that...even in peacetime...two thirds of the world population does not have enough to eat. But it's a fact that will no longer be accepted on those terms.

Because next month...the first conference of FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization - swings into action. This Food and Agriculture Organization is the first of the new permanent United National organizations to be launched after the war. So far...twenty-six nations have agreed to the constitution of the FAO. Before the conference...more nations may decide to join.

And FAO proposes to do something about this semi-starvation of the world. Its purpose - as given in the constitution - is divided into four main parts. One - it will help nations who are members of the organization to get more and better food to their peoples. Two - it will work to improve agricultural production everywhere. Three - it will try to better the conditions of all rural populations. And four - by accomplishing these first three aims...it will contribute toward an expanding world economy. In other words...FAO will work toward freedom from want on a worldwide basis.

This isn't going to be easy. But it is possible. The agricultural experts of the world agree that...given modern production methods...the world's farmers can raise enough food and agricultural products to supply everybody an adequate diet.

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Farmers will have to know...of course...what products are most needed and where they can put modern farming methods to best use.

So...acting as an advisory organization...FAO will supply that information. It will gather statistics on supplies of agricultural commodities throughout the world...and on the markets for those supplies. Moreover...it will collect information on the latest scientific developments in agriculture...from all member governments.

This information will include the latest developments in forestry and in fishing as well. FAO will promote...and if it seems wise...recommend action to governments on improving agricultural production. And should a government request it... FAO will supply the best technical knowledge of the world to help out any single problem. The organization will function to speed the reaction of farming around the world to the latest scientific agricultural developments of any one place.

We...as a nation...have much to gain from being a part of the Food and Agricultural Organization. And we have much to offer. Even though we are one of the most advanced nations - as far as nutrition levels and agricultural production are concerned - we can learn a lot from the methods of other countries. And we will profit...if world trade in agricultural commodities can be smoothed out.

But our greatest gain as a member of FAO is this: We have a big stake in world peace. And while political and military alliances are necessary...they do not insure us of lasting world peace. Work...continuous, cooperative work from all nations on all sorts of problems...including those of food and agriculture...will do that.

As the delegates gather at Quebec for the FAO conference next month...they'll study some of the outstanding world agricultural problems with an eye to solving them. It'll be the first step toward defeating hunger...and another step toward an enduring world peace.

